

Serial No.: 09/550,867
Examiner: Derrick W. Ferris

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, and 14-19 remain in this application. Claims 3, 6, 11, and 13 have been canceled. Claims 1, 4, 7-9, and 12 have been amended.

The Examiner has acknowledged that claims 14-19 are directed to allowable subject matter. Claims 3, 6, 11 and 13 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants has amended independent claim 1 to substantially include the limitations of dependent claim 3, and has amended independent claim 4 to substantially include the limitations of dependent claim 6, and has amended independent claim 9 to substantially include the limitations of dependent claim 11, and has amended independent claim 12 to substantially include the limitations of dependent claim 13. Therefore Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

Regarding dependent claim 2, as this claim depends from independent claim 1 and incorporates all the limitations therein, for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that this claim is also allowable over the cited references.

Regarding dependent claim 5, as this claim depends from independent claim 4 and incorporates all the limitations therein, for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 4, Applicants respectfully assert that this claim is also allowable over the cited references.

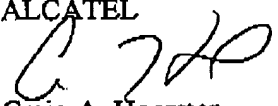
Regarding dependent claim 10, as this claim depends from independent claim 9 and incorporates all the limitations therein, for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 9, Applicants respectfully assert that this claim is also allowable over the cited references.

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It is believed that the foregoing amendment places the Application in condition for allowance; therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection of the claims as set forth in the Office Action, and full allowance of same. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

ALCATEL


Craig A. Hoersten
Reg. No. 38,917

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Alcatel
Intellectual Property Department
3400 W. Plano Parkway, M/S LEGL2
Plano, TX 75075
Phone: (972) 519-5143
Fax: (972) 477-9328